

February 24, 2014

Vincent Candelora
House Republican Office
L.O.B. Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised Bill No. 5060

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECORDING OF POLICE ACTIVITY BY THE PUBLIC.

Dear Representative Candelora,

My husband Robert and I would greatly appreciate it if you could work to expand the above-referenced legislative proposal to cover personal property. Further, we are asking that you enact legislation to protect personal property from surveillance cameras and recording devices.

We live at #1 Blackstone Avenue in Branford. On several occasions during the summer of 2013 our next door neighbor at #5 Blackstone Avenue flew a drone over our property, and directly over our heads and outside of the windows of our home. On one occasion the drone was flying over my husband's head while he was on the telephone having a private conversation. The neighbor told my husband that he has the ability to video-tape and record everything that we say and do, and he actually walked over to my husband and showed him the video tape that he had recorded via the drone onto his own I Phone. The neighbor advised my husband that he could watch everything that we did and that he could hear everything that we say. This was extremely unsettling to us and we consider it to be a gross invasion of our privacy. On the advice of the FBI and the U.S. Attorney we contacted our local Chief of Police in Branford. Unfortunately, the Chief of Police was unable to assist us since he said that there was no specific legislation to address the use of drones or surveillance devices. We have exhausted all avenues in our quest to prevent us from being stalked by a drone from happening again in the future.

The neighbor also has several cameras and video equipment on the outside of his home, which is in very close proximity to our own – less than fifteen feet, and we strongly believe that our private conversations within the sanctity of our own home and on our property are not private. Recently he installed another video camera, which has been placed flat against his home in a position directly facing our kitchen windows. I have included a photo of this camera. This has only increased our discomfort. Therefore we are requesting that you expand the proposed legislation to include restrictions on surveillance (drones, cameras, recording devices, etc.) of personal property.

Everyone has an expectation of privacy, especially within one's own home. The idea that someone is watching and listening to you is extremely frightening. It is harassment plain and simple. We hope that you are able to effectuate this proposed legislation so that citizens can feel safe within their own homes and on their own personal property.

We appreciate your efforts in this regard.

Sincerely,

Robert and Michelle DiLieto









